by 2012 has been accepted as a national goal. The budget for the year 2002-03 provides for introduction of a new interest subsidy scheme called the Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme with an outlay of Rs. 164 crore. This would enable States to give the rural electrification programme greater momentum.

The forward-looking, reform-oriented Electricity Bill 2001 has been introduced in Parliament. The Bill, *inter-alia*, contains stringent provisions for penalty in case of power thefts. The Bill also includes provision for reduction of cross subsidies, and for payment of subsidies upfront by the State Governments to the State Power Utilities where such subsidies are considered unavoidable.

It is expected that the action plan briefly outlined in the preceding paragraphs would lead to improvement in the operational and financial performance of the State Electricity Board/Utilities with restoration of commercial viability in a few years.

APDP In KARNATAKA

1563. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Accelerated Power Development Programme has been implemented in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the places where this programme is under implementation in Karnataka;

(c) the places where this programme is proposed to be taken up in Karnataka during 2002-2003;

(d) the amount released for the above programme during 2001-2002; and

(e) the amount proposed to be spent during 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) The Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) now known as the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) was introduced in February, 2001 with the sole objective of restoring the financial viability of the State owned power utilities. The programme aims at upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution network below 33 KV/66KV. In the first phase, 63 circles have been identified all over the country to be taken up for upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution under the APDRP. So far as the State of Karnataka is concerned, 3 circles have

have been identified under this programme. The details of funds released and utilized in these circles are given below:

Rupees in Crores

Karnataka	Status of Funds				
Circles Name	Cost of Project	APDP Fund Sanctioned	APDP Fund Released	Loan Sanctioned	Fund Utilized
Belgaum Bijapur	114.52	57.26	57.26	57.26	57.26
Mysore R&M of Generation	44.48	24.24	24.24	24.24	24.24
TOTAL:	159.00	81.50	81.50	81.50	81.50

The States have also been asked to identify 5-6 additional circles to be taken up for upgradation of sub-transmission distribution system under APDRP schemes. The funds for the projects identified under the APDRP are released in accordance with the schedule drawn up in consultation with the Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance and the Implementing Agencies. The progress made can be assessed only after completion of the time schedule drawn up for the project.

Efficient models for T and D of electricity

1564. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is studying the Berlin and Paris models for distribution of electric energy to reduce agregate transmission and commercial loss of electricity; and

(b) if not, whether Government is evaluating other and more efficient models for transmission and distribution of electric power so as to ensure uniterrupted supply of electricity to consumers without faulty billing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Recognizing the critical importance of reforms in the distribution sector, the Government has studied the conditions prevailing in the power sector in Europe, United States of America and some Latin